

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

Hackney's **OTHER** Newspaper

- 'Judges' on buses
- All out on March 10

FARE FIGHT

The Hackney Fare Fight campaign is now in full swing. United by their opposition to the doubling of fares planned for 21 March, as a result of the Law Lords decision, 400 people packed Hackney Town Hall for a meeting on 15 February. Hackney Fare Fight was then launched and an intensive programme of marching, leafletting, lobbying and letter-writing got under way.

There will also be a total stoppage of London transport on Wednesday 10 March, with both buses and tubes striking for a day. This is the first time that there has ever been a complete stoppage on both types of transport. Fare Fight is urging passengers to back the transport workers on that day; they will be striking to save public transport in London.

A mass lobby of Parliament has been planned for 11 March, and a rally at County Hall on 13 March. If the support for this is overwhelming - which all the signs are it will be - then Fare Fight will be launching a campaign to pay only the old fare when the fares go up.

The Town Hall meeting was opened with the comment that the campaign, to have any effect, would have to be short, sharp and energetic - with the fare increase planned for 21 March.

First speaker of the evening Nick Lester of Transport 2000, pointed out that since fares would be three times as high in a few months' time, it would in many cases be cheaper to travel by taxi. He said

that undoubtedly the use of public transport would drop and those who would be the worst hit were the old, unemployed and children, who did not have their own transport.

Mr Lester set out the reasons why, economically, the increases did not make sense: 5,000 jobs would be lost, journeys would take twice as long, employers would have to pay their



Sounding out about cheap fares. Fare Fighters go to great lengths to give people the message.

staff higher wages to pay for fares, shops would be hit and there would be less incentive for businesses to return to the inner city areas.

"London," he concluded, "is out of step with the rest of the world on this matter of subsidy. We deserve low fares!"

WHO RULES?

Terry Allan, T & GWU, Central Bus Section, said that the Lords' decision meant in effect that the people of London do not have the right to decide what the fares should be, but that 5 law lords are the ones who should make the decisions. To make their judgement, these law lords went back to the considerations of thirty years ago. They had taken no consideration of the conditions of today - the pollution and congestion.

"What," asked Terry Allan, "about the adequacy of services which LT was supposed to provide?"

Even at the present time, LT was having to cope with all kinds of problems. Under the

Continued on p.8.



Metro Golden Murray

Hackney Council has decided to dispose of one of its biggest white elephants - the old Metropolitan Hospital in Kingsland Road - by handing it over, lock, stock and barrel, to a man who has given them no detailed plans of what he intends to do with it.

In December, Hackney People's Press, revealed the disquiet that a number of community groups feel about the disposal of the site to Michael Murray, of the Federation of Working Communities. At the beginning of February the Council Policy Committee decided that it would let a consortium of community groups submit a proposal for the site. This was being co-ordinated by Hackney Co-operative Developments, which exists to set up co-operatives in the borough and Bootstraps, who have set up the Brass Tacks workshop and Mosquito Bikes in Dalston. They argued that they needed three months, and some council resources, to undertake a proper feasibility study for the site. The matter was then deferred to another special Policy Committee later in the month.

At that meeting, a motion was then put by Jim Holland to hand over the site to Michael Murray, although he has not presented any detailed plans himself for the site. This was backed by Kate Hoey, chair of the leisure services committee, and carried by 9 votes to 7. Kate Hoey's speech in favour of the Murray plan is thought to have been particularly influential.

A spokesperson for the

Metropolitan Action Group, who had wanted to put in their own plan for the site, said to HPP afterwards that they were very disappointed. "We had stressed all along that here was an opportunity for the Council to work in partnership with local community groups to develop the hospital site for the people of Hackney. We needed more time to develop a detailed financial proposal. Money would have been available from the GLC. It needn't have cost Hackney anything."

CAUSE FOR CONCERN

There are two main worries about Murray's plan. Although his proposal for a Metropolitan College of Craftsman, with lots of space for crafts people to develop small businesses sounds very attractive, there is no guarantee that any of the people who will work there will come from Hackney. The community groups plan would have concentrated on developing local industry, generating work for local people.

Two groups that at present occupy the Nurses Home on the site are also worried about their future. This is especially so after the Hackney Gazette described them as squatting in the building, while they are there in fact under licence. The groups are the 136 Community Nursery and the Short Life Users Group. Although Hackney Council has said it will give them licences, it has yet to confirm it in writing.

Hackney Fare Fight campaigners hand in a monster letter of support to workers at Stamford Hill bus garage.



INSIDE MASSIVE MARCH WHAT'S ON GUIDE!
EXCLUSIVE PREDICTIONS FOR COUNCIL ELECTIONS!
LONDON ASSEMBLY MENTAL HEALTH, RIO CINEMA
and much, much more!

LABOUR PAINS



INSIDE LEFT

You will remember that last month I left you with all the exciting news so far about selection of Labour candidates for the May Council elections.

Since then, the roundabout has spun even faster, with more and more people falling off the sides and many of those who stayed on driven giddy by the delusions of power and ambition. Read on, therefore unless you are of a nervous disposition - in which case, you might be advised to take a couple of stiff snorts before engaging your brain.

NEW RIVER

The final selection has now taken place. As I told you last month, Maureen Colquhoun and David Clarke are to be the candidates. The third person to be selected was Hilda Kean, a left winger, who has now complicated things further by saying that she will only stand if the ward will back her position of no cuts, no rent rises, no rate increases.

NORTH DEFOE

Again, there was a problem about the final selection in that Jack Davidson, who was selected, thought that he might rather continue representing Springfield. He settled for North Defoe in the end however, and is to be joined by solid leftwinger Lou Eustace.

SPRINGFIELD

After fussing about staying on his own patch, Jack Davidson didn't even turn up to the selection meeting for Springfield. The final candidates were leftwinger Mary Chadwick, middle of the road Mohammed Iqbal and rightwing old guard Les Layward.

EAST DOWN

As predicted, the Owen slate swept the board and the Gooch house connection paid off. Bob and Matilda Owen and Linda Hibberd are back for about the 43rd time.

VICTORIA

The right wing swing back

started with the selection for Victoria. Joannie Andrews, one of the retiring councillors, confidently expected selection for herself and two of her sidekicks. Instead the meeting was swamped by the Lou Sherman fan club, who couldn't select their hero, as he wasn't a candidate, but went for the next best things, Charlie Cable and Shuja Shaikh. Both had been ignominiously dumped by their wards earlier.

QUEENSBRIDGE

The pace hotted up with the selections for Queensbridge and Dalston wards, with both going on on the same night, in adjoining rooms at the Labour Club. Mary Cannon managed to get selected for both wards, but turned down Queensbridge, with the result that the candidates were Andrew Puddephat, John Bloom and Betty Shanks. All of these are new and all are thought to be MOR left.

DALSTON

Bigges surprise here was the deselection of Steve Scott, generally reckoned to be one of the more able old guard on the current council. One other retiring councillor, Bob Masters, was reselected, and he was joined by Richard Bruce, MOR left, and Mary Cannon.

HAGGERSTON

Retiring councillors were the conspiratorial Ron Heisler and leftwinger Diana Morley, who was not standing again. Ron Heisler was reselected and he was joined by silent old guard Gus Martin, who had been deselected by his old ward earlier.

DE BEAUVOIR

Sometime broad leftists Jim Cannon and Jim Warner were retiring councillors, as was Reg Crowfoot, who eventually turned up in Wenlock ward. Cannon and Crowfoot were reselected, and they were joined by leftwinger Ros Tyrrell.

MOORFIELDS

Deepest Shoreditch contains two wards which the Labour

Party has written off already as certain Liberal gains at the elections. However, both have come up with some pretty amazing selections, coming right at the end of the cycle. Retiring (to the Isle of Wight) was Alf Habberley, and he was replaced by, of all people, Martin Ottolangui, whom everyone thought would be retiring gracefully. Brian Marsh, MOR leftwinger, was reselected.

WENLOCK

This is Jeff Roberts territory, neglected by the Labour Party for many a year. Fred Weeden was the only sitting Labour councillor here, and he was deselected. Refugee from Victoria, Mick Andrews, was selected, along with Reg Crowfoot.

Now what effect will that have on the likely political composition of the Labour group after the election? I will now tell you.

Labour will be doing very badly if it loses six wards, so it is likely to be easily the majority party after May. If the entire Labour slate was elected then Johnny Kotz's position as leader would not be secure, if another responsible candidate stood against him. At present he can only count on 18 certain votes, with a possible four others. This is out of a total of 60.

If Labour loses its six most vulnerable wards: New River, Brownswood, Springfield, Homerton, Wenlock and Moorfields, then he would be down to 13 certain votes out of 46.

Of course, things could easily change by then. Those certain votes could be swelled by a few late night phone calls. Perks like the chair of the Accident Prevention Committee will doubtless be proffered. There's even the question of who will be Mayor!

Two other names are being bandied about the corridors of power as possible candidates for leader. These are Anthony Kendall and Patrick Kodikara. Kodikara would clearly have no chance of getting elected. Equally clearly, Kendall would be a firm favourite, if he wants or can be persuaded, to stand.

There are those who say that it will make very little difference if there is such a change in leadership on the council.

Now may not be a good time to be in local government. But, the argument goes, Thatcherism must surely have only a limited life left. The council we elect in May will run on beyond the next General Election. Then a Labour government will be returned, and all our problems will be solved. The question is, do we believe all that?

Stalin speaks

Dear Sir/Madam,

When I was visiting London today I bought a copy of HPP and saw a special article about Poland called "Poland's lost freedom". The only conclusion that I could come to about this article is that it is nothing more than a poor re-hash of the poison the general media gives us about Poland these days, be it the BBC, ITV, Daily Telegraph Mail or whatever. These resort to the most despicable lies about Socialism, Poland or the Soviet Union. There have been problems in Poland but what is quite obvious that Solidarity had no intentions of curing Poland's problems.

I have been to East Germany, Poland and Czechoslovakia by road so I am familiar with the peoples attitude to the Soviet Union, after the many conversations I have with the people in the different countries of socialism.

The writer of the wretched article tries to give one the impression that socialist soldiers are no different than Nazi troops what a lot of bunkum.

In my travels I found the customs officers and soldiers as helpful and pleasant as any one can wish for.

With a little consideration one can see how necessary it was to impose marshall law in Poland because of the way this so called phoney trade union organisation Solidarity was getting out of hand and showing its desire to get military and political control of Poland on behalf of the CIA. I wonder if the writer of that article realised when he wrote that the last war

was started from Poland, because the Polish authorities in 1939 were traitors who were not able to put up a resistance to the Nazi onslaught of Germany and it was the Red Army that liberated not only Poland but other Eastern European countries in 1944. There are over a half a million graves of Red Army men who gave up their lives in the liberation of Poland.

Only an idiot can see the events in Poland as a step back from democracy. The very steps of the Polish authorities when they put Poland under Marshall Law was a socialist necessity to consolidate the gains of Socialism in Poland. This can be seen by the ravings of President Reagan and Secretary Haig, what annoys these anti socialists and war mongers was that the Polish Authorities have been able to deal with the traitors without the help of the Soviet Union.

Since 1917 the Imperialists have tried to incircle the Soviet Union with the hope of occupying that country.

They hoped after their defeat in Hungary, East Germany and Czechoslovakia, they would be able to get Poland out of the Alliance, and that is why so many millions was given to "Solidarity" by the CIA once Poland was out of the Alliance it would have been a matter of time for West Germany to occupy East Germany. Now you can see why so much support for Solidarity and why Haig and Reagan are seething?

Best wishes

A. Sirotkin
Clacton on Sea

Waller fans

Dear HPP

Reading you again after a gap of two months (I could not find copies anywhere in December of January) I note that Inside Left is up to his/her/its old tricks once more - or perhaps still.

Assuming that "deselected" means, in English, not selected again, I have to tell you that Cllr Don Waller of North Defoe Ward actually retired on medical grounds. Furthermore, he was thanked by with every appearance of warmth and sincerity by our branch, presented with a signed copy of M. Foot's biography of A. Bevan on our behalf by Ernie Roberts and, like Paul Marshall, made an honorary member of the branch (both of them actually live outside it).

HPP now has three alternatives: to print this letter, to print a separate abject apology from Inside Left (both, if you like) or to de-receive the subscription I have been intending to take out.

Over to you
Defraternally

Bruce A Smith
Assisatant Secretary
North Defoe Branch,
Hackney North Labour Party.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would draw your attention to the back page of the North Defoe Newsletter which, you must admit, shows that your article in the February HPP was wrong. As will be seen, I, Don Waller, stood down from the selection of candidates and was not deselected. I hope in your next March issue you will rectify your misinformed source by making some fair remarks to put the record straight. And I will thank you in anticipation.

A couple of other points. Admittedly it was partly medical reasons why I stood down and partly what your paper wants, making way for new, young blood! I have promised the North Defoe Ward to help out, after May, whatever happens, at the local surgery duties. In South Defoe you mention that Peter Kahn was thinking 'not to stand'. Not true, what he did was to place on record that he only wanted to stand if selected for South Defoe. Incidentally, at North Defoe's AGM in February our MP Ernie Roberts made a presentation to me for my work whilst representing North Defoe as a councillor.

Yours etc

Don Waller

Inside Left writes: Grovel, grovel, grovel. Sorry Don. My mistake. OK, Bruce you can send the money now. Used notes please.

ADVERTISEMENT

Open 10am-6pm.
Monday to
Saturday.

Mosquito Bikes

Cycle Repair Co-operative
18 Ashwin Street
Dalston
London E8 3DL
Tel. 01-249-7915



All kinds of repairs
Cycles overhauled
Wheels straightened
Spares and accessories
Friendly service and advice

Front entrance through
Bootstrap Enterprises
in Ashwin Street.
Cycle entrance through
yard in Abbot Street.



A vision of overcoming the bureaucracy at County Hall by involving Londoners was offered by Ken Livingstone, the GLC leader, at the end of the first exercise in such popular involvement, the London Assembly, on 27 February.

Over a thousand people from all over London came to meet and discuss some of the issues which most affect Londoners today. The morning session was devoted to the attack on London by the Government and the establishment. Top of the agenda, of course, was the threat of the fares rise, planned for later this month. If there is massive popular support for the lobby of parliament and the rally then, a speaker from the Campaign to Improve London Transport said, "the possible next step is a refusal to pay the new fare." But this has to be built on the knowledge that there is the massive support.

The Assembly was also told about the attack on London as a whole. 200,000 jobs have been lost over the last three years and unemployment in some areas is as bad as it is in any other part of the country.

The effect of this is particularly bad for women, said a speaker from Haringey Trades Council Women's Committee. "Women are forced into low paid ghettos. Equal pay and equal opportunity are a dead letter for them."

Discussions

Then followed a token disgruntled ratepayer from Enfield, who claimed to be representing a "non-party political" (we know what that means!) residents' federation. Shouts of derision came from the floor as he protested against the GLC spending £2 million on community relations, when they had spent none last year, and what he called the "ridiculous waste" of money on organisations for gay people. As Ken Livingstone said in his speech at the end, the amount of money being spent is not enough.

The Assembly went on to talk about housing and particularly the plight of the single homeless. Lorraine Worpole of Hackney Under Fives told the conference about the attitude common in housing departments that homeless people have to be punished. This results in over 200 families in Hackney alone living for long periods in terrible bed-and-breakfast hotels.

In the afternoon, the discussion started off

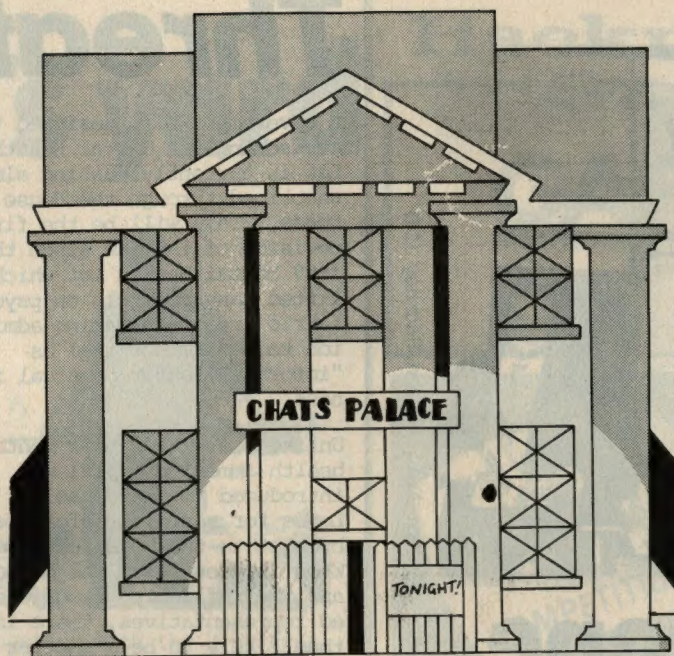
in a more positive way, about a campaign that had been won. This was the fight to save ILEA, which the Tories had wanted to dismantle. Faced with a massive campaign, with teachers, school staff, children and parents all joining in, they backed down.

A number of black speakers throughout the day talked about the racist attitudes which permeated society. Young black people, particularly, were at the bottom of the pile when it came to jobs. It was no wonder that riots had occurred spontaneously last summer. Winston Pinder of the Afro-Caribbean Association got a big reception when he blamed the attitude of the police above all. The first item on the agenda, he said, must be making the police accountable to the community.

Next step

The final session dealt with the grandiose sounding subject of "Where do we go from here?". A Hillingdon Trades Council delegate talked about moves afoot to set up a local assembly in their borough, united to bring the Government down. Sheila Rowbotham of the Beyond the Fragments group spoke about initiatives to have a conference about planning, with the emphasis on planning of projects by people who knew about them best, those actually involved in the projects themselves. And finally Ken Livingstone wound up with a pledge to keep up the Assembly on a regular basis, to link up the trade union movement with the growing community movement. He talked about why the GLC had been singled out for such attack by the Tory press. This he said was because the establishment could see that society was teetering on the brink of major social change.

All in all, it was a pleasant change to see a giant bureaucracy like the GLC come out of their County Hall corridors and start talking to the people. There was a wide cross-section of groups represented, although there was still a heavy weighting in favour of the traditional labour movement type of speaker. But nearly half the speakers were women, a good few were from ethnic minorities and there was a token gay. If the Assembly can spawn local assemblies, and bureaucracies like Hackney follow, then that would be a big force for change. Perhaps after the May elections something will stir in Mare Street.



Chats future

The financial position of Chats Palace, the Homerton community centre is still uncertain. As reported in last month's LPP a substantial deficit was expected due to inadequate grant levels. Simon Farr the centres administrator explained that grant applications have been made to the GLC, Hackney Borough Council and the Greater London Arts Association, however the results will not be known until April. In addition receiving financial backing from industry was being investigated, BP who contributed towards the recent Christmas show being one of the possibilities for future sponsorship.

The main problem seems to be that the grant awarded to Chats Palace when it began six years ago were not fully adequate then and (although largely keeping pace with inflation) have not matched the development of the project. At a time when the arts are an easy target for cuts Simon Farr argues instead the need for an expansion to meet the needs of unemployed youth and other disadvantaged and minority groups hit by unemployment, urban decay and deprivation.

New policy

Looking ahead to the 1982/3 financial year Chats has formulated a policy to meet this challenge based on two main developments: Firstly increasing the use of available space by running more daytime activities giving more attention to the unemployed, including mothers, small children and senior citizens.

Secondly they aim to develop closer links with a wider range of minority groups, particularly ethnic, disadvantaged and disabled groups.

The workshop programme is to be divided into a five day weekly scheme, four days with a specific theme and one remaining flexible; while the event and entertainments programme will continue in the evening from Thursday to Saturday with a regular Sunday lunchtime jazz spot. The expanded workshop programme and daytime meetings will be housed above the main hall. Alan May Chats workshop coordinator explained that they had received a grant of £27,000 from the borough's under spent partnership money towards the cost of building work which will install a floor above the main hall - currently unusable space. This new area will then be available as an enlarged workshop, with the old workshop area becoming available as a meeting room. Building work should start in May and last for about four months during which use of the centre is likely to be restricted.

Meanwhile following the success of last years Christmas show plans are going ahead for an Easter show and a touring theatre show as a contribution to this years Hackney Marsh festival. So, despite the financial uncertainty Chats Palace is looking ahead to meet the challenge of the social and creative needs of the local community. If you think you may be able to help Chats or take part in any way why not contact them at 42 Brooksbys Walk E9.

NEWTON ROSE

The campaign to free Newton Rose from prison took an unusual and hopeful turn last month, when the date for his appeal against a conviction for murder was brought forward to 8 March. The three youths sentenced with him for perverting the course of justice were also granted bail, pending their appeals. This is taken as a sign that the authorities may believe what Newton's friends and lawyers have been saying all along, that he is the victim of a police frame-up.

Newton was accused of the murder of Anthony Donnelly, a white youth who had been connected with the National Front Constitutional Movement. Despite the fact that an eye-witness saw Donnelly being attacked by four white men the police forced Newton's three friends to make confessions implicating him in the murder. The friends were later to retract these confessions, but were not believed. So they too were sentenced to prison.

The Newton Rose Action Committee organised a packed public meeting and a picket of Hackney Police Station during February. The case has now become the centre of a lot of press and media attention.

A picket will be held outside the Royal Courts of Justice in the Strand during the appeal on Monday and Tuesday 8 and 9 March from 9.45am.

For further details contact Newton Rose Action Committee, 76 Stroud Green Road, N4. (272 4849).

CLAPTON YOUTH

The Inner London Education Authority are still refusing to upgrade the part-time Tutor in Charge of Clapton Youth Centre to a full-time job. A. Samuels (Sam) is at the centre of a row between the Youth Centre and officials at County Hall which has been simmering for several months. ILEA officials insist that if he becomes a full-time worker he must be downgraded to a youth worker, while the Centre wants Sam to become a lecturer.

The matter is now to be decided finally at a meeting of the Further and Higher Education Committee later in March, after a meeting between Sam, representatives of the Hackney Black People's Association, the Hackney Council for Racial Equality and other Youth Centre workers, and one of the senior officers at ILEA.

It is unclear whether the officers will be letting the committee know of the wishes of the Youth Centre workers and members - so, in case they don't, the Youth Centre is determined to make its own submissions. Sam's job has become a crucial test case in whether ILEA will allow the black community the right to determine the role and functions of its youth workers.

TROJAN POSTERS *****



SOCIALIST FEMINIST POSTER



SAY NO TO CRUISE ROSTER.



RONALD REAGAN WAR MOVIE POSTER



BIKE POSTER

Only 45p each + 30p P&P

ALSO AVAILABLE, ANTI-SEXIST ALPHABET POSTER, THE FAMOUS GRAFFITTI POSTER, MARIJUANA CROP POSTER AND THE POLITICAL JOKES POSTER. ALL ONLY 45p

47a Grayling Road London N16

Solidarność
POLISH SOLIDARITY POSTER.



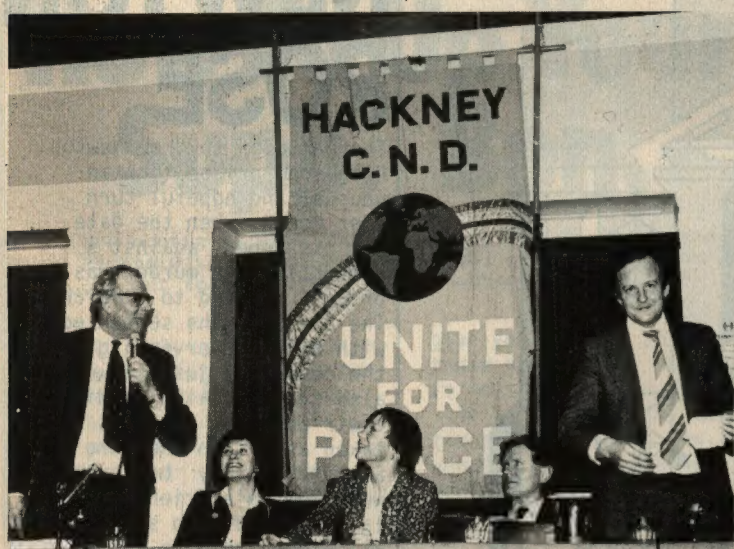


Photo: Neil Wilson/Hackney CND

Target Europe

A public debate over nuclear weapons was organised by Hackney CND last month. At a very well attended meeting in the Town Hall on 17 February the motion was proposed that "the deployment of Cruise and Pershing 2 missiles greatly increases the danger of nuclear war in Europe".

Speaking first, Conservative MP and MEP, Jim Spicer called on history to support his opposition to the proposal: "For us in the UK and in Europe to say 'out with the Americans' is inviting exactly the same fate for our continent as we suffered under the Nazis in 1939".

CND View

Joan Ruddock (chairperson of National CND) replied that Spicer was misinterpreting history. "Even if (his arguments) were true," she continued, "I am confident in my ability to fight back against tyranny in a way I am not confident in my ability to survive a nuclear war." The characteristics of Cruise missiles - their pin-point accuracy and highly explosive nuclear warheads - were clearly built in not for retaliatory strikes on empty silos which had already launched their military hardware. The assumption must be that Cruise was being developed for a first strike capability. This type of weapon was, in reality, likely to increase the possibility of nuclear war. "We in CND," said Ms Ruddock, "are ordinary British people who have looked very carefully at this issue of nuclear weapons, who are convinced that they are a danger to us and who believe that we have the absolute right to try to get a change in our Government's policy on this particular issue".

ADVERTISEMENT

Food for All

GRAINS, BEANS
DRIED FRUIT + NUTS
HERBS + VITAMINS

HACKNEY COMMUNITY'S
ORIGINAL WHOLEFOOD STORE
Open Mon-Sat 9.00-6.00
3, Cazenove Rd, London, N.16
Off Stamford Hill
01 806-4138

Alan Lee Williams (of the British Atlantic Committee) took issue with the proposal before the meeting. Cruise and Pershing 2 missiles were not to be introduced before 1983 whereas the Russians were presently deploying their equivalent SS-20s at a rate of 4-5 a month. CND's arguments were, as he saw it, weakening the pressure for detente and more likely to contribute to the outbreak of World War III. The campaign's hysteria was signalling to the Russians that Britain was rotten from within, that she did not have the will to defend herself. A more rational approach, Lee Williams suggested, was to try for a political agreement on arms control. It might take time but then all nuclear weapons, on both sides, could be withdrawn.

Stuart Holland, Labour MP, countered Lee Williams' criticism of the motion by pointing out that an equivalent of the Soviet SS-20s was in fact being currently deployed by NATO - and that was the submarine-based Poseidon. Perhaps the Russians did pose a threat to the West, but the way to deter them was by the intelligent deployment of conventionally armed forces. The last Arab-Israeli war showed that there were other ways to stop a tank other than by matching like-against-like. The idea that, if there was a stale-mate, the Russians would be tempted to use nuclear weapons was a fallacy. "There is a grossly warped logic," he said, "in saying that the Soviet Union would wish to reduce us to nuclear rubble with radiation lifetimes in key cases going to 10s, 100s or, if we are not careful with some weapons, to 1000s of years. Is this the sort of area that the Soviet Union would wish to occupy?"

sun power

83 blackstock rd
tel: 01-226 1799

books on

- Nuclear Power
- Alternative Energy
- Ecology, Nature
- Organic Gardening
- Self-Sufficiency
- Crafts, D.I.Y.
- Wholefood, Health
- Feminism
- Anarchism
- Fiction
- Children's books

open: Mo-Sa 10-6, Thu 12-7

tube: finsbury pk.

Threat to mentally ill

A government bill designed to revise English Mental Health Law is currently passing almost unnoticed through the House of Lords. This will be the first revision of the law since the 1959 Mental Health Act which lifted many controls on psychiatric treatment making admission to mental hospital as "informal" as for physical illness.

Unlike most bills this mental health amendment bill was introduced to the House of Lords for revision before being brought to the House of Commons. When it does reach the commons and the influence of our elected representatives, there is thus likely to be a shorter than normal period of time before it becomes law.

How will this bill affect the people of Hackney - an area with a rate of mental illness well above the national average? Although presented as a charter of patients' rights it contains only one unambiguous concession to the civil liberties lobby

that being the abolition of mail censorship (special hospitals like Broadmoor will still retain censorship). One of the major proposals of the new bill will enable qualified nurses to detain informal patients for up to six hours whilst a doctor is called to sign a "section". If this amendment is passed it will be extremely difficult for an informal patient (94% of the total) to leave a hospital without the consent of staff.

ECT

Another major change that is of concern is that of compulsory treatment. The 1959 act made no explicit provision for compulsory treatment, the new bill aims to remedy this and provides guidelines for compulsory treatment. This could mean, for example, that a depressed patient who is neither deluded or intellectually defective, being forced to undergo a course of Electro Convulsive Therapy (ECT). This, at least, should be the patient's right to choose.

So far the amendments discussed by the lords have related to peripheral issues and technicalities only. But if the bill becomes law in its present form then and now would be that the authorities may feel more confident about their legal authority to override civil liberties on the grounds of "mental disorder".

Further information is contained in a lawletter special leaflet on The new English Mental Health Act available for 5p plus postage from: Lawletter 90 Fawcett Estate, Clapton Common, E5 9AX. MIND has also produced a detailed analysis of the bill, price 15p plus SAE from MIND, 22 Harley St, W1. On a local level Hackney Workers Educational Association would like to hear from anyone interested in joining a discussion group on the bill: contact the Community Care Workshop Convenor, Andrew Roberts, 177 Glenarm Rd, E5 ONB, enclosing a SAE (Tel 986 5251).

TENANTS SAY NO TO RENT RISES

Representatives attending the GLC Tenants Group meeting of the Federation of Hackney Tenants' Associations in February decided to resist the impending rent increases vigorously. Since then these have been fixed at £1 for GLC tenants and £2.50 for Hackney Council tenants.

The tone of the meeting made it quite clear that tenants are more and more concerned with the deal they are getting. Indeed, many who were there said how alarmed they were at the high levels of rent arrears and evictions in GLC housing.

Tenants are finding life intolerable at the moment and the future looks even worse. To stop the rot destroying their homes tenants decided unanimously to start up a rent campaign.

The campaign will tell all tenants about rent issues that affect their everyday lives, but will also actively show them that if tenants feel as they do now, their only real allies are themselves. They will act themselves now and not rely on other people doing it for them.

Tenants feel that the problems they are suffering from are a direct result of the rent increases over the last three or four years. The meeting agreed that any increases this year would make an already impossible situation far worse.

Representatives also were deeply worried by the fall-off in repairs, maintenance and services generally. Why in fact should tenants "Pay more for Less?"



ESTATE WINS!

ALARMS PROMISED

Following a long history of break-ins and muggings on Nightingale Estate, tenants organised a Public Meeting and a petition to Ken Livingstone demanding improved security.

This resulted in an article on the estate's problems in the Guardian and publicity on LBC radio. On part of the radio programme, Gladys Dimpson, chairperson of the GLC Housing committee, promised that Nightingale would get priority treatment. A meeting with Ken Livingstone of a delegation from the Estate has also been arranged.

The immediate effect of this action has been that an alarm system has been installed in one of the OAP flats, with the other flats to follow shortly. Improved locks are also going to be fitted. For the Tower Blocks, entryphones are going to be installed.

The success of this campaign follows a concerted effort by the Tenants Association. It

shows that tenants can achieve results. However the TA is aware that the essential problems of the estate is that it is lacking, for want of a better word, "a sense of community". Thus the TA is demanding that amongst other things, use of one of the empty shops is given to the TA and funding is provided for an administrative co-ordinator, so that such activities as advice sessions can go on there. Ultimately the TA would like to see the implementation of an estate management committee - consisting of the Council officials, union representatives and delegates from the TA - involved in the overall running of the estate linked to a system of district committees. Only by tenants having direct influence are conditions on the estate going to improve. A report based on a survey on crime and violence done by the TA will soon be published and will deal with the problems in greater detail.

Dalston centre planned

The dream of a community centre for the Sandringham area of Dalston looks like becoming a reality soon. Community groups had been pressing for such a centre for a long time, but suddenly their aim became a real possibility when it was found that the budget for the Housing Action Area had been underspent at the same time that a suitable building became available. The Council is now in the process of buying the old synagogue in Montague Road, a building that seems ideal for conversion.

Much remains to be done even before conversion work can begin. Plans still have to be approved by various official bodies. Then it would take perhaps a year to carry out the building repairs and improvements, which include a new ceiling to divide the main hall into two floors. The annex may be converted much more quickly however, using money from another budget, so the centre may begin to operate in a small way much sooner. Eventually it is hoped to employ three full-time workers and that proposal is now part of next year's partnership scheme for Hackney. It is under consideration at the moment.

People living in the area who haven't already become involved can find out more from their local community group (SAHARA and the Tenants Association of the Samuel Lewis Buildings in particular) or contact Hugh Tunks, the secretary of the committee for the community centre, at 54 Montague Road, London E8.

ADVERTISEMENT

No one's yard

In Britain we have experienced the weight of US "encouragement" to go along with their plans for our "defence" with the question of Cruise missiles being sited here and our purchase of the Trident missile system. Until now, however, we have not experienced US "help" yto anything klike the extent that it has been inflicted on the peoples of the Central American and Carribean region. In places like El Salvador and Guatemala and throughout the region this help consists of putting the interests and security of the US way above the rights of these peoples to determine their own fates. Policy is governed by the US view that this region is its "backyard", and so it can run the place as it sees fit.

Places like Grenada, Cuba, Jamaica, El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua are a long way from London. However a lot of Hackney people have links with the Carribean and there is a growing Central American community in East London including people who have fled the terrible situation in El Salvador. Our own government has consistently supported the Reagan administration in funding repression and murder in that country and Guatemala, the withdrawal of aid to Nicaragua and Grenada and military threats against Cuba. Is there anything we can do?

The East London El Salvador Support Committee,



together with the Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign, Caribbean Labour Solidarity and City Polytechnic Socialist Unity Society has arranged a festival of events in East London from 11-18 March on the theme "No one's Back Yard". The programme includes a series of films, a day school and a benefit disco. It will give a chance for local people to find out more about the forms of intervention in the region and what we can do to support the peoples of Central America and the Caribbean. Full details appear below.

Also on 28 March, there will be a national demonstration against the US-sponsored elections in El Salvador and against the sending of British observers. Last year, a huge number of people demonstrated their refusal to allow the US, backed by the British government, to force a nuclear weapons future on us all. On 28 March there is the opportunity to demonstrate again our opposition to the US attitude that it has the right to run other people's affairs, this time in its attempt to enforce repression, poverty and murder on the people of El Salvador.

Film series:
11, 16 and 18 March at 7.30pm.
Four Corners, 113 Roman Road, E3. Films on Grenada, El Salvador and Nicaragua.
£1.50 each (75p unwaged).

Day school:
13 March at 10.00 am.
City Polytechnic Students Union, 102 Whitechapel High St, E1. 50p.
Crèche.

Benefit Disco:
13 March at 8pm.
City Polytechnic Students Union, as above.
£1.00.

The El Salvador Campaign can be contacted at 29 Islington Park Street, N.1.

ADVERTISEMENT

Hackney Play Association is looking for a third person to join the team: particular responsibility for publicity and publications.
Salary AP4. 25 hours/week.
Job sharing considered.
SAE to HPA, 380 Old Street, EC1. Closing date - 24 March.

Hackney Gazette

GAFFE OF THE MONTH

ONLY THREE ENTRIES SO FAR FOR THE BEST BOSS COMPETITION



We are sure that many people get as much innocent pleasure as we do from the gaffes to be spotted each month in the Hackney Gazette. Therefore we have set up now the Hackney Gazette Gaffe of the month column, which we hope will pass on some of these errors into the permanence they deserve. Here is the space for the picture that appears two issues running, the year-old letter that is completely out of date, the quoting of completely meaningless statements from lone Tory Joe or the flogging vicar of St Mark's.

The first entry is the Best Boss competition. Three weeks now, with no valid entries. Does this mean that Hackney workers don't respect their bosses?

ADVERTISEMENT



Wednesday 17th March
A Concert

No Cause for Alarm

An anti-nuclear show to raise the spirits from the dead. Poems, quotations and songs performed by the combined talents of:

FRANKIE ARMSTRONG: 'One of the most compelling and beautiful of the folk voices of Britain' (Daily Telegraph)

LEON ROSSELSON: 'One of Britain's finest songwriters' (Observer)

ROY BAILEY: Possessor of one of the folk world's finest voices' (Guardian)

Their joint performance was the highlight of this year's Vancouver Folk Festival, where they won a standing ovation from the 6,000 strong audience.

Read the Morning Star every day



available from your newsagent

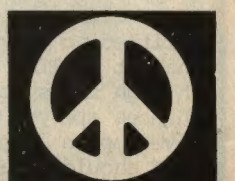
-breaks the Tory Press monopoly

Tickets
£1.00 unwaged
£2.00 waged

(available in advance from 806-9386)

STOKE NEWINGTON
TOWN HALL

STOKE NEWINGTON CHURCH ST.



CRECHE available
SHOW: Starts 8.00pm
BAR: Opens 7.30pm

How To Up Your Supp. Ben.

HPP continues with its occasional series on Welfare Rights with an explanation of the entitlements you can get to top up your Supplementary Benefit.

DID YOU KNOW that the Supplementary Benefit Scheme gives you legal rights to various extras on top of your basic weekly amount?

Unfortunately, you can't depend on Social Security to

give you or tell you about these additions. However, it is always worth enquiring.

If you satisfy the conditions laid down by law, the benefit officer must pay you your extra benefit.

Below are the sorts of payment you may be able to get.

Weekly Additions

● **Special diet** - If you suffer from a complaint that entails a special diet, for example ulcers, diabetes or if you are convalescing from a major illness or operation on a kidney machine.

● **Laundry addition** - If you can't do your laundry at home because of illness or disability. Or if there are no suitable washing/drying facilities at home. Or if the amount of washing is greater than usual.

● **Help in the home** - If you have to pay someone (not a council home help) to help with the housework because of illness or disability. In severe cases the Department of Health and Social Security (DHSS) will pay for a live-in helper.

● **Nursing needs** - If you or one of your family needs lots of looking-after because of illness/disability and it will last for at least six months. This does not apply if you are actually getting Attendance Allowance.

Other entitlements cover special wear and tear on clothes (through physical or mental disability), furniture storage, hire purchase payments and fares to hospital for visiting relatives.

One-Off Grants

These are to cope with special expenses not reckoned for in your weekly benefit. They include:

● **Clothing and footwear** - Only made in very limited circumstances and not reckoned for in your weekly benefit.

● **Maternity needs** - To buy things for the immediate needs of a new baby for up to a year after birth.

Furniture, household equipment, bedding - Any household items which are essential but which you don't have. You are also entitled to payments to clear HP debts for essential furniture or household goods.

● **Removal expenses** - If you have to move under special circumstances: for example, if your home is badly in need of repair, or if your partner has died or you are separated. If you qualify for this grant you can also get help with travel expenses and any furniture you need. (This does not cover families moved by the Council for homelessness.)

Other one off grants cover the cost of repairs to the home, fees or deposits that need to be spent on the house, funeral expenses and even fares - for example, if you are just starting work or have to travel somewhere urgently.

All these grants and weekly additions have detailed, complex conditions attached to them and you have to satisfy these conditions before you can qualify for payment. However, if you do qualify you have a legal right to payment.

If you don't qualify or the item is not mentioned your only hope of getting a grant

is to show that the payment is the only means by which serious damage or serious risk to the health or safety of your family can be prevented.

Remember, it is always worth finding out if you might be able to get extra benefit. If you need further information or advice contact your local Advice Centre.

BENEFITS BONUS

If you have tried to find out what welfare benefits you are entitled to you will know what it is like to wade through the system - and the chances are you may have given up in despair.

It should be easier in the future for claimants to get to know their entitlements.

Hackney Council are buying six mini-computers which are programmed to give you all the answers. You just feed in your own information - income, rent, rates, number of children, etc. - in response to a series of questions from the computer, and the computer prints out the benefits you should get.

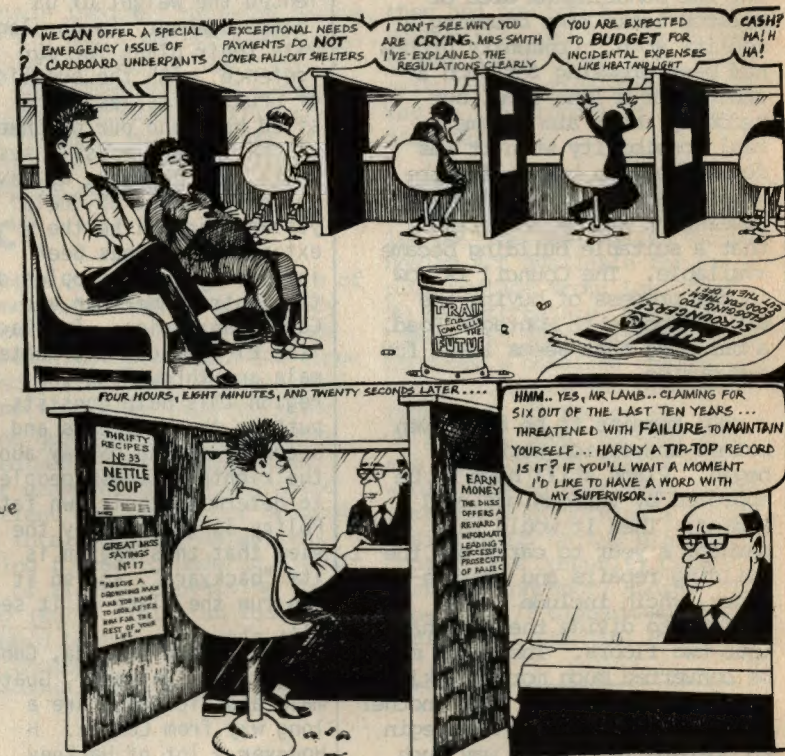
Lamb to the slaughter

The embattled male has his own comic book at last. Ralph Edney's *The Adventures of Lazarus Lamb* is about a young man who suffers every indignity that the male ego can undergo - his womanfriend takes a more handsome lover, he loses his job, is beaten up by the police, threatened with eviction, late to cook supper in the house he shares, overdrawn at the bank. He dreams of being mild-mannered Clark Kent but even he had a job. . . . The devil offers him the fulfilment of any wish in return for his soul, apologising for the embarrassment of mentioning it. Such deals are always tricky as the reader finds out.

The drawings are a great pleasure. Images vary inventively in size and perspective. The dialogue and commentary are both funny and clever. Best of all are the small visual jokes and the endless graffiti used to shock you into recognising the truth of such pictures as the unemployment office with memorial plaques for late signers.

As a whole the book left me feeling that nothing has been

connected up or understood, just these whining men whose integrity is crushed by life. Or maybe it isn't?



Last Picture Show?

Hackney's own community cinema, the Dalston Rio, could close in the near future if it fails to pay off over £50,000 in debts. That was the gloomy prediction made by the cinema's management committee last month as they made a last ditch attempt to raise money to stay alive.

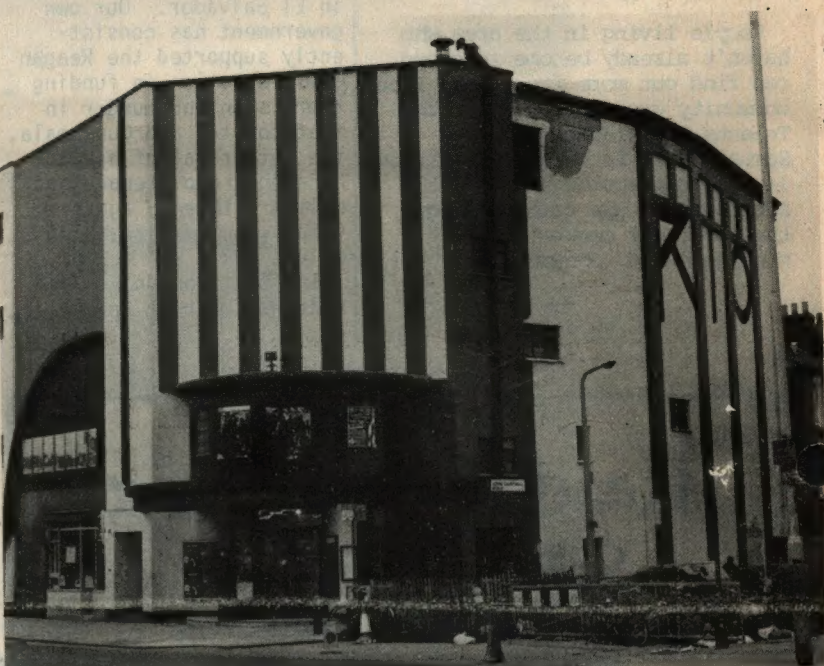
The brightly painted cinema near Dalston Junction used to show uncensored martial arts films until about 3 years ago. Then, a management committee of members of the local community was formed and they were leased the building by the owners, Classic Cinemas. The committee wanted the Rio to become a community cinema, with members of the community deciding what films they wanted to see.

As well as showing general release films, the Rio also showed special programmes on Sundays and late nights, and held events such as women only and black films.

Attendances at the cinema have, if anything, remained steady over the past few years, and figures compare well with other local cinemas.

Problems began when the Rio was renovated over a year ago. Apart from essential repairs, a temporary screen was installed and the stage was rebuilt to accommodate live shows. The cinema ran up massive debts which it has been unable to pay off.

The Rio management committee has been unable to expand the cinema fully into a resource for the community and the number of people involved in the committee has



Tony Macklin

dwindled. Sally Hibbin, chair of the management committee, pointed out that the Rio is one of the last cinemas operating in Hackney and should be kept open for the benefit of the community. They want to introduce events such as unemployed cinema and special kids' shows, but, she explained, "because we're so tied up with debts we haven't been able to introduce special programmes and the staff are overworked".

Dennis Crowley, one of the two full-time workers at the Rio, commented that the cinema has been barely surviving

financially for the past 18 months and their wages are often paid months in arrears. Most of the time the two workers spent answering phone calls from creditors.

Deliverance may come in the form of a £65,000 grant from Inner City Partnership, which would enable the cinema to buy the lease from Classic Cinemas and mortgage it to pay off their debts. The Department of the Environment is in the process of considering the application. A further £15,000 has been applied for from the Council's Leisure Services Committee for two more full-time workers, but as HPP goes to press the Council's Labour Group had not yet committed itself as to whether or not to support the cinema.

Just how much public support there is to save the cinema is not certain. What is certain, according to Sally Hibbin, is that if the Council does not give financial help, the Rio's screen will go blank. "If they refuse", she said, "then it will close, and I think that would be tragic."

The computer covers all kinds of benefits: supplementary, family income, child, single parent, mobility allowance, etc., as well as rent and rate rebates, school clothing allowances, travelling expenses for hospital visits and so on.

The system is already in use in Cardiff, with great success. In one year over £1,250,000 was claimed in extra benefits which people did not know

they were entitled to.

The computers, when installed, will be scattered across Hackney, probably in the two Citizens' Advice Bureaux in Mare Street and Dalston and at advice bureaux at Stoke Newington and Stamford Hill. Arrangements are being made with the Department of Health and Social Security so that the print-outs will be recognised and paid without and fuss.

WHAT'S ON

Music

CHATS PALACE

42/44 Brooksbys Walk E9
986 6714

Sat 6 Chats Palace Music Hall with Christine Pilgrim and guests £1.50/70p unwaged 8.00
Sun 7 Lunchtime Jazz with Carl Mellor band 50p (accompanied children free) Noon
Mon 8 Darts - Chats Ladies V. The Eagle 9.00
Tues 9 Under 16's Club Night 20p (new members 25p) 7.30
Thurs 11 Open debate "Racism and sexism in Entertainment" with guest speakers 8.00
Fri 12 Benefit for "Red Rope" commemorating the 1932 mass trespass of the Derbyshire Moors with a folk-night compered by comedian Neil Davis with Sandra Kerr, Ron Elliot, Terry Yarnell, Jack Warsaw and Mike Carver. £1.50/75p unwaged 8.00
Sat 13 Jumble sale in aid of Hackney Toy Library 2.00
Sat 13 Senior Citizens Night Out with food and entertainment £1.50/75p concessions. 8.00
Sun 14 Lunchtime jazz with Captain Bewildered Trio 50p (accompanied children free) Noon
Tues 16 Under 16's Club Night 20p (25p new members) 7.30
Thurs 18 Hackney LPYS present a rock night with bands (phone for details) £1.50/75p 8.00
Fri 19 Hackney Music for Socialism present Spare Tyre Theatre Co. plus Oxy and the Morons and comedian Ben Elton. £1.50/75p unwaged 8.00
Sat 20 Three Wren Mine Co. in "High Fells" £2/£1 unwaged 8.00
Sun 21 Lunchtime jazz/theatre with Canon Stock Theatre Company incorporating the Mike Mower Quartet presenting "The Second Line" £1 (accompanied children free) 12.30
Tues 23 Under 16's Club Night 20p (new members 25p) 7.30
Thurs 25 Benefit for East London Troops Out Movement with Chats Arkestra plus the republic. £1.50/75p unwaged 8.00
Fri 26 Sat 27 and Sun 28 at 8pm Black Theatre Co-Op in "Trinity" £2/£1 unwaged
Sun 28 Lunchtime Jazz with C Captain Bewildered Trio 50p (accompanied children free)

THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN AT HACKNEY

Lower Clapton Rd, E5
Sun 28 7.30
Barts Festival Orchestra and Choir perform The Creation by Hayden.

CROWN and CASTLE

600 Kingsland High St, E8
254 3678
Live Folk Music most nights in downstairs bar.

FOX'S WINE BAR

Stoke Newington High St, N16
254 2709
Fri 5 David Hughes and Andy Herbert - jazz guitar.
Sat 6 Zizi and the Metro.
Fri 12 David Hughes and Andy Herbert - jazz guitar.
Sat 13 Julie Neubert and Adam Gorb - 30's style vocals and piano.
Fri 19 Tony and John - jazz piano and guitar.
Sat 20 Ring for details.
Fri 26 Tony and John.
Sat 27 Ring for details.
Plus every **Sunday Lunchtime** jazz with Kaleidoscope - Piano and Guitar.

PEGASUS

109 Green Lanes, N16
254 3678

Mondays: The Cannibals 80p
Tuesdays: The 45's £1
Wednesdays: The Chip Shop Show £1.25 (See Review)
Thurs 4 and 11 The Hank Wangford Band £1.50
Thurs 18 The Electric Blue-Birds £1.25
Thurs 25 Lee Kosmin - Soul £1.25
Fri 5 The Republic - Afro-Caribbean £1.30
Fri 12, 19, & 26 Juice on the Loose £1.50
Saturdays: Big Chief £1.30
Sun 7 Ricky Cool £1.25
Sun 14 The Republic £1.25
Sun 21 The Ivory Coasters £1.25
Sun 28 The GB Blues Co. with Roots Jackson £1.25
All Bands start at 9pm

PEMBURY ARMS

90 Amhurst Rd, E8
985 5288
Wednesdays and Sundays: Flying Saucers
Fri 12 Sid Burns and the DAS
Fri 19 The Strollers
Fri 26 'Phone for details.

STOKE NEWINGTON ASSEMBLY HALL

Church St, N16
Thurs 4 The Bachelors 7.30
Tickets free from Libraries, Sports Centres and information bureaux.

WEAVER'S ARMS

98 Stoke Newington Rd, N1
226 6789
Thurs 4 Radio Moscow
Sun 13 The Riffs
Wed 24 The Uncool Dance Band
Fri 26 The Trojans
Sat 27 The Alternatives
All Bands start 8.30, admission £1

HACKNEY MUSICIAN'S COLLECTIVE

Live bands at the Sir George Robey pub 240 Seven Sisters Rd, Finsbury Park (opposite The Rainbow)
Thurs 4 The Hystericals
Fri 5 First Offence
Thurs 11 The Avengers
Fri 12 Step by Step
Sat 13 Cab Drivers
Thurs 18 Damaged Youth
Fri 19 First Offence
Thurs 25 Walking Wounded and The Fleas
Fri 26 Step by Step
Plus every **Monday** Oxy and the Morons. All Bands start at 8pm - Most are free.

Meetings

SWEET FREEDOM: Public Meeting with Beatrix Campbell, author of a new book on the history of the women's movement. **Tues 16** at Family Centre 50 Rectory Rd, N16, at 8pm.

GIRLS NIGHT: Drama, badge making, T. Shirt printing, disco dancing, photography, juggling etc. Come to 80 Sandringham Rd, E8. **Tuesdays** until April 27, 6.30 to 8.30. Transport available, contact Becky, 254 3082, or pop into the office at 9a Sandringham Rd, E8. 254 9661.

ADVERTISEMENT

Attractive halls for hire - Weddings, socials, meetings. Competitive prices. Capacity 200. Upton Centre, Hackney. Tel. 254-2941.

Theatre

CROWN AND CASTLE

600 Kingsland Rd, E8
249 0938
Late night Cabaret and occasional mid-week theatre shows in upstairs bar. Doors open 9pm show starts 9.30 unless otherwise stated. Entrance £2, unemployed with card £1.30. Late Bar and food.

Thurs 4, Fri 5 & Sat 6: Omelette Broadcasting Co. featuring The Two-Reel Co., The Wee-Wees & Johnny Melville. Wild, off the cuff, improvised comedy show. Plus Music support. Show starts 9pm Thurs/Fri.

Sat 13 Women's Celebration Night with Sitting Ducks visual, musical theatre co. and Terri Quaye - drums, piano, songs, plus others.
Sat 20 Spring in the Air Night with Mr Spratts 21st century popular motets & others.

Sat 27 Lip Service (ex complete fiasco), Julian Clary as Phil the Pill and his Agony Aunt, Artery (Brechtian, Greek, Chilean song group).

HALF MOON YOUNG PEOPLES THEATRE

Oxford House, Derbyshire St, E2
739 9093/729 5287

Tue 23 & Wed 24 *Birds on a Wire* will be performed by a group of young people from East London as part of this year's East End Festival. The production follows the story of Louisa, a restless black girl, tracing her life from the end of her school career to her final act of defiance - a riot and lock out on a borstal roof.

NEW HALF MOON THEATRE
213 Mile End Rd, E1
'Phone 790 4000 for details.

THEATRE ROYAL

Gerry Raffles Sq, E15
534 0310
Thurs 4 until Sun 28: Royal Variety nights - 'Phone Box Office for details, Tickets £1 -£5.

PEGASUS

109 Green Lanes, N16
254 3678
See Review.



Dance

STOKE NEWINGTON ASSEMBLY HALL

Church St, N16
Sat 13 Old Time and Modern Sequence Dance with the Harry Christy Band. MCs Peter and Peggy Brown. 7.30 £1.20

DANCE CLASSES: 7.30 Tickets 40p at the door -
Mondays: The Hall of Remembrance, Clissold Rd, N16
Thurs 4: Hackney Baths (Kings Hall)
Thurs 11, 18 Stoke Newington Assembly Hall.

REVIEW: THE CHIP SHOP SHOW
Sophistication, subtlety refinement - You will find none of them every Wednesday evening this month at the Pegasus. Instead you can relax with friends, family and a pint to enjoy the Chip Shop Show's manic mixture of high-cholesterol comedy and music. Super-human changes of character, costume and scene span several continents before reaching the ultimate limits of outer space. Along the way they take in the antics of a hungover blackbird, a saga of low-life in New York City and Miss Kandy Kane's legendary

1944 concert for the war-weary Swiss troops.

The hard-working cast of two: Hilary Price and Mac Mac Donald (the human juke box of Covent Garden fame) give a finally timed performance, but still leave room for improvisation. The sketches feature a generous sprinkling of witty, tuneful songs. Sakal on keyboards, guitar and steam-age synthesizer plays a low key, but essential part in creating and maintaining the mood. A guest comedy act support the Chip Shop Show each week - a great nights entertainment for just over a pound.

THE CHIP SHOP SHOW AT THE PEGASUS: SEE REVIEW.



Cinema

ASTRA

119 Stoke Newington Rd N16
254 0046
Phone Cinema for details

ICA

The Mall, SW1
March 10-14 at 6.30
True Romance Etc. and Divide and Rule, Never. Both filmed in Hackney and by Hackney Youth.

HACKNEY FILM SOCIETY

Homerton Library, Homerton High St E9
Thurs 11 Sapphire Dir. Basil Dearden 1959 92 mins 7.30 pm

KONAK

13/15 Stoke Newington Rd N16
254 2415
Phone Cinema for details

RIO

107 Kingsland High St E8
254 6677
Sun 7 Bigger than Life (X) and The James Brothers (A) both Dir. Nicholas Ray 3.00 pm
Sun 7 for one week Christiane F (X) (subtitles) Sunday 7.35
Weekdays 5.45 and 8.15, **Sat 3.30**
Sun 14 Rebel without a Cause (X) and East of Eden (X) both with James Dean.
Sun 28 The American Friend (A) and Angi Vera (A) (subtitles) All films £1.80 Pensioners 60p
Phone Cinema for details of starting times for Sunday matinees. Weekly programmes for the second part of March are not yet available.

REVIEW: CHATS BEATLES SHOW

Chat's Palace's Beatles marathon drew such a huge crowd that your humble scribe couldn't get in to see the actual show. From our vantage point in the bar, however, I can report that the music didn't sound too hot, although the audience seemed to be having a good time. At closing time and four pints of Adnams later enough people had left to allow us in for the second part of the marathon itself. This was an attempt to sing all the 150-odd songs ever written by the Beatles. It was unclear whether anyone was actually keeping a check but everyone was obviously having a wonderful time. All the old styles were there - flared trousers, Cuban heels, Sgt Pepper jackets, round-collared jackets, lovable mop-top haircuts. (Your humble scribe reckons that he has had a lovable mop-top haircut since he was born, but hasn't been offered any recording contracts even though he knows all the words of Norwegian Wood.)

Us over 30s love any excuse for a bit of nostalgia, and there was plenty of that. A special mention must be made of the band, which went through all the routines in an amazingly inspired fashion - even the incredibly complicated series of songs from side 2 of Abbey Road. And Chat's itself had been decorated up to the usual high standards we have come to expect. The four portraits of the Beatles from the With the Beatles album had been beautifully recreated on the walls. MBEs to all concerned.

FARE FIGHT

Continued from p.1.

Conservatives at County Hall, recruitment and training were being run down. LT was now catching up, but even going full out, training centres could only turn out some 70 drivers a week for the buses and at this rate it would take three to four years to clear the backlog. The decision by the Lords would mean a 10% cut in services. He gave an example of what this would mean: for the

buses the planned level of service was 204 million miles/year. Last year it was only 164m. Further cuts would mean that LT was running about half the level of service that it needed.

Sabrina Aaronovitch followed with a poem bemoaning the state of chaos for bus travellers, ending on a despairing note - "we must be mad to live here".

Dave Wetzel, chairman of the GLC transport committee, rushed in late, having just managed to leave an important debate at County Hall. His first point was that the Government was dead against the fare cuts because the Labour GLC had committed four crimes: most important, they had won the last election; they had won the arguments on the reductions, for they made sense on all grounds - economic, social, energy, environment; the GLC had kept its promises - and, worst of all, the Fares Fair had been highly successful, even more than had been expected.

Dave Wetzel made it very clear what the cuts would mean in terms of services provided for the public. 1,000 buses out of 5,000 would have to be laid off, resulting in long gaps. "You will," he remarked, "need a diary instead of a bus time table to know when to expect the next one". Reductions will also affect investment - only 15 new trains are on order now instead of the 28 which are urgently needed.

"There are," he said, "two basic issues. The first is the provision of good public transport. The second - who rules? London Transport should run the service to meet the needs of London, not of the Lords".

Campaign action

Several events in the programme

ANGRY AND UNEMPLOYED

The Right to Work March that passed through Hackney was a four-day round London affair. It was primarily a protest against YOP schemes, and next year's proposal to have all Unemployed School leavers on £15 a week Government Industrial 'Training' schemes or receive no Unemployment Benefit. This works out at a rate of 37.5 pence per hour - SLAVE Labour indeed. Instead of YOP schemes the Marchers were demanding proper Unionised Jobs at Union rates.

While marching through localities several marchers went on various delegations to gain support and likewise express solidarity. For example people met striking local government officers in Islington, and workers fighting for Union recognition at Foyle's Bookshop. This was a new experience for many of the marchers, who as YOPS workers or as Unemployed had had little contact with Union activities.

The March culminated in a Rally on February 25th, with a mass lobby of Parliament organised by the Labour Party Young Socialists. The Lobby of course did not meet any Conservative M.P.'s, and by the end

of the day only Ernie Roberts was left of the Labour M.P.'s. So after the march it was rather a damp squib. It proved if it needed to be that people cannot rely on Parliamentary promises but have to fight for Jobs now.

In Hackney itself, the YOP schemes in operation are not blatantly exploitative - as they often are elsewhere. Nor can the dedication of some of the YOPS Supervisors

be denied. As Ronnie a local YOPS worker says: "It's better than being stuck at Home all day".

However there are present injustices. For example it was pointed out in the Lobby that at Belfast Road Workshop in Stamford Hill, workers who are quarter of an hour late in arriving lose £4 of their allowance - a large sum out of £25. If the workers were in a Union this Ruling would certainly not be allowed.

The March itself then, while not gaining much publicity, was an eye-opener for many of the 500 or so who went on it. Hopefully they and others will be successful in the fight for proper Jobs not conscript Labour.



Pic: Tony Macklin

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

The open editorial meeting for the next issue of HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS will be held at at Centreprise, 136 Kingsland High St, E8, at 8pm on Tuesday 16th March. If you would like to help write or produce the next issue then please come along.

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS is an alternative non-profit making monthly newspaper produced by an open group of people who live or work in Hackney. We publish the paper because we believe that Hackney needs an alternative to the commercial press to serve the real interests of its people. We have no editor and no shareholders and no one is paid by the paper.

HPP is your newspaper: anyone who lives or works in Hackney is welcome to come and help us. All decisions are made collectively.

HPP is sold through various newsagents and shops throughout Hackney. If you think that your newsagent would like to sell it, on sale or return then please contact us. And if you don't think that you can spare the time to become more involved, but you enjoy reading HPP and think more people should read it, then please get in touch if you are willing to sell a few copies to your friends or neighbours or at meetings.

Take out a subscription to HPP and guarantee regular delivery! Just send a cheque/PO for £2.80 for one year's subscription to Hackney People's Press, 47a Grayling Road, N16.

Please make cheques payable to HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Printed and published by Hackney People's Press, 47a Grayling Road, London N16; tel 809 2889 (daytime messages) and 806 9211 (evenings and weekends).

Can't pay? Won't pay!

If there is massive support for the fares lobby on 11 March and the rally on 13 March, then the next step must be to launch the Can't Pay, Won't Pay campaign. Already the transport unions have said that they won't stand in the way of any passenger who refuses to pay the new fare. A massive campaign to refuse to pay the fares will be the only tactic which will force the Government to change its mind - and bring back what we all want: a decent transport system for London.

threat to abortion

One round in the fight to keep abortion on demand legal has been won, but the battle is by no means over.

The threat that abortions for social reasons might no longer be legally available first began last March. All surgeons are required to fill in a form for each abortion they carry out, saying whether the grounds were social or medical. In 80% of cases it was "social grounds" which was ticked. In March the DHSS brought out a new form, without the "social grounds". This form which amends and limits the 1967 Act, was introduced by Statutory Order in Parliament but never debated.

Two gynaecologists, one of them Dr. Peter Huntingford who used to work at Mile End Hospital, have been investigated by police on the suspicion that they carried out illegal abortions. The doctors, in answer to the question on the form "Main medical condition" had written "None" since they refused

to falsify the returns. The investigations, ordered by the Director of Public Prosecutions, failed to find any evidence of illegal action and charges have been dropped.

Dr. Huntingford, regarded as a leader of the fight to keep women's right to abortions because of his strong convictions, refused to recant in spite of police attempts to persuade him to say there were medical grounds. But, he considers, this could still be the thin end of the wedge. The forms still remain, threatening 80% of abortions, although the Act still states that social and environmental reasons should be taken into account.

Further action is being started to make certain that the "social condition" clause is not destroyed. Over 100 MPs have urged Dr. Gerard Vaughan, the Health Minister, to withdraw the forms and the National Abortion Campaign is planning the next move.



Pic: Tony Macklin